

FORM No. 62.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY, NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Financial Results of the year 1886-87.

Division.	TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCE REMOVED FROM THE FORESTS BY GOVERN- MENT AGENCY.		OTHER REVENUE.		FORMATION, PROTECTION, AND IMPROV- EMENT OF FORESTS.	TOTAL.		Remarks.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
North Thána ...	86,108	18,661	1,33,080	4,712	55,429	2,19,188	78,802	
South Thána ...	69,815	18,484	34,026	1,348	61,777	1,03,841	81,609	
West Khándesh ...	10,718	2,767	80,185	45,765	433	90,903	48,965	
East Khándesh ...	12,353	3,574	49,536	2,261	41,105	61,889	46,940	
Násik ...	40,434	7,688	66,153	711	58,949	1,06,587	67,348	
Ahmednagar ...	13,602	2,812	30,515	3,991	51,056	44,117	57,859	
Poona ...	36,197	5,956	53,731	814	75,358	89,928	82,128	
Sátára ...	26,611	8,683	42,490	23,568	37,108	69,101	69,359	
Sholápur ...	915	2,116	6,478	6,746	23,460	7,393	32,322	
Surat ...	15,235	10,111	54,469	20,769	12,375	69,704	43,255	
Panch Maháls ...	13,162	726	37,263	1,401	28,440	50,425	30,567	
Working Plans ...	...	...	...	...	15,876	...	15,876	
Direction... ..	...	...	25	...	32,835	25	32,835	
Total ...	3,25,150	81,578	5,87,951	1,12,086	4,94,201	9,13,101	6,87,865	

Poona, 25th October 1887.

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, N. C.

No. 3813 OF 1887.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Camp Ahmedabad, 13th December 1887.

Forwarded to Government.

2. Considerable progress has been made in the acquisition of lands to complete the demarcation schemes. But of the area so acquired only a very insignificant portion appears to belong to this division. This matter should be pressed on with in Thána.

3. I entirely agree with the Conservator that the crests of the Gháts are not sufficiently protected. Above Lonávli (to the north) the tops of the hills are becoming quite bare, and this is also the case in some of the Bhore State villages to the south. Money could hardly be spent more profitably or judiciously than in acquiring land and rights in such positions.

4. I do not myself think that the topographical maps of Thána will repay their enormous cost. They are of course exceedingly useful in all initial proceedings towards settlement; but when boundaries have once been fixed, there will be much less use for these expensive maps.

5. I entirely concur in Mr. Shuttleworth's argument in favour of adopting small areas or compartments upon which to commence systematic "working," and I think that the "rough and ready" system proposed is more likely to be workable at first than the more elaborate one first contemplated. If very large compartments were adopted, much inconvenience and hardship to the people would be the result.

6. There is improvement this year in the statistics of forest crime. The figures in paragraph 70 show that more care and discretion were used in bringing such offences before the Courts.

7. The treatment of simple offences under Section 43 of the Land Revenue Code is becoming more successful, as I anticipated. In the 154 cases referred to, the value of the timber was less than rupee one per case, and this method of dealing with such petty matters is clearly better than criminal prosecution.

8. There has been conspicuous moderation in impounding cattle.

9. I have already expressed my opinion very strongly that without an alteration in the Forest Act regarding *passes*, there will never be efficient protection in Thána.

10. There has been a very notable improvement in *fire conservancy*, though the name is hardly a suitable one, considering that few active measures are taken in this direction, and that expenditure is nominal. I have always held that a good deal depends upon the temper of the people. I should have been glad to see so conspicuous an improvement signalized by a notable increase in the rewards given to the villagers. I do not, however, quite trust the correctness of the figures.

11. The grazing question is under the separate consideration of Government.

12. With regard to the complaint about thorns, I can only observe that the demand will increase as wild animals increase in the reserves. The Conservator's remarks are somewhat overdrawn, but there is some reason in them. There are thorns and thorns. The removal of those most valued (the "bor" or "wait a bit") should be freely allowed, and in some places bambu trimmings might be utilised. But if Revenue Officers find the privilege abused, it should be stopped at once.

13. I will ask the Collector of Thána to report on the working of the present system of retail sales for the Bassein sugar-boilers.

14. The income of the Department has somewhat fallen off, but this is sufficiently explained by the lower prices obtainable. There has been a notable decrease of ill-feeling against the Department in Thána, and on this and the general results of the year I congratulate the Conservator.

15. I would ask that, if it is necessary to print "rules" in *extenso*, they should be embodied in an appendix. They are wearisome, and somewhat unprofitable reading in the body of a report.

G. F. SHEPPARD,
Commissioner, N. D.

No. $\frac{R}{100}$ OF 1888.

FROM

ARTHUR CRAWFORD, Esquire, C. S., C. M. G.,
Commissioner, C. D.;

TO

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay.

Poona, 10th January 1888.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the accompanying Administration Report of the Conservator of Forests, N. C., for the year 1886-87, received on the 12th December 1887.

2. *Paragraphs 1 to 11.*—The increase in the forest area during the past year was 281 square miles and 576 acres. The revenue has, however, declined from Rs. 10,37,296 in 1885-86 to Rs. 9,13,100 during the year under report. A large number of cases under the Forest Act were compounded, and this, I hope, is evidence that the officers of the Department have acted on the principle of moderation in the exercise of their functions.

3. *Paragraphs 12 to 69.*—At the close of the year the forest demarcation remained to be completed in 19 talukás of the Central Division. The proposals regarding 9 talukás have lately been formally sanctioned by Government, and it is hoped during the current season all will be disposed of. The work of erecting forest boundaries is being pushed on with vigour. When this is completed, encroachments on forest areas ought to cease. The settlement of claims to forest areas, however, seems to be behindhand, and both for the protection of forests and the public at large it is very necessary that this work should be undertaken and completed as early as possible. The code of rules regarding the privileges in the North and South Tápti talukás were sanctioned finally by Government during the year under report.

4. *Paragraphs 70 to 88.*—Though a large number of forest offences were compounded, nevertheless the cases brought before Criminal Courts show an increase of 64 over last year, the highest figures being 150 in Ahmednagar and 146 in Násik. In Poona, during 1885-86, 230 cases were tried, but the number fell to 99 during the year under report. The Conservator's remarks on the working of Section 67 of the Forest Act appear to me to be sensible. Mr. Wroughton, the Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, says that the compounding of forest offences is a great temptation to dishonesty by subordinates. This may be so, but the remedy is obvious, *viz.*, that superior officers should scrutinize as many such cases as possible.

5. *Paragraphs 89 to 136.*—The revenue from grass and grazing is, on paper, increasing enormously: in the year 1878-79 the income from this source was Rs. 42,629, and in the year under report the revenue rose to Rs. 2,37,126! This

simply means that a large sum has been abstracted from Land Revenue and credited to Forest. I see no reason to believe that increase is due to departmental causes. The greatest increase is in the Násik and Ahmednagar Collect-orates. Mr. Shuttleworth seems to consider the supply of thorns to private persons for fencing cultivated areas a difficulty in the way of forest conservancy. The final orders of Government on the subject are contained in the Government

* No. 6493, dated 27th September 1887, R. D. Resolution* noted in the margin, and the instructions when carefully carried out need cause no danger to forests. The departmental cutting of teak and other forest was everywhere a complete success. This system is also beneficial, inas-much as it conciliates people resident near forest reserves.

6. *Paragraphs 137 to 140.*—Free grants of timber amounted during the year to Rs. 4,244, or about Rs. 300 over last year. Mr. Shuttleworth adds to this the estimated value of other concessions allowed to the people, but I think that free grazing and other concessions are not directly connected with the forest conservancy. Many of the concessions are recognitions of old rights and privileges enjoyed by the people long before the Forest Department was created.

7. *Paragraphs 141 to 150.*—The Conservator of Forests accounts for the decrease of revenue by a small demand for timber in the Thána District and the Dángs and the Mándvi forests combined, with a sudden and unaccountable fall in the prices of myrabolans. The expenditure shows an increase of Rs. 19,191!

8. The Conservator seems to have moved actively throughout his charge. Mr. Shuttleworth's remarks in paragraph 157 regarding the reduction of the bulk of the Divisional Forest Officer's establishment when on tour is worthy of consideration. The suggestion, if carried out, will simplify work and considerably reduce expenditure on the touring of Divisional Forest Officers.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR CRAWFORD,

Commissioner, C. D.

Statement showing the information with regard to the Areas in the Northern Circle declared, under the provisions of Section 34, either Reserved or Protected Forests, but in which the rights have not been finally settled for the year 1886-87, as required by paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 8738 dated 24th December 1887.

Class of Forests.	At the commence- ment of the year— Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	AREAS SETTLED DURING THE YEAR UNDER		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year—Areas under Section 34 in which private rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	Remarks.	
		Chapter II of the Act.	Chapter IV of the Act.					
		Square Miles.	Square Miles.					Square Miles.
<i>North Thána.</i>								
Reserved Forests	201	201	The settlement work ac- complished during the year is <i>not</i> exhibited by these figures, but only the progress made in the set- tlement of the Forest lands which were gazetted under Section 84 of the Forest Act in March 1879.	
Protected Forests	292	.....	.....	.....	1	291
<i>South Thána.</i>								
Reserved Forests	99	.....	.....	.....	.....	99
Protected Forests	329	.....	.....	.....	.....	329
<i>Poona.</i>								
Reserved Forests	329	68	.....	3	.....	258
Protected Forests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Surat.</i>								
Reserved Forests	955	.....	.....	.....	.....	955
Protected Forests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Panch Maháls.</i>								
Reserved Forests	183	.....	.....	5	.....	178
Protected Forests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Ahmednagar.</i>								
Reserved Forests	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Protected Forests	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	2,389	68	8	1	2,316		

· SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

No. 3135 OF 1887-88.

FROM

J. L. L. MACGREGOR, ESQUIRE,
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOUTHERN CIRCLE;

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay.

*Conservator's Office, S.C.,
Belgaum, 18th October 1887.*

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Forest Administration Report of the Southern Circle for 1886-87, together with its subsidiary statements, as per list appended.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. L. L. MACGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, S.C.

Through the Commissioner, S. D.